

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /083 W
-----082114Z 076642 /63

R 082020Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9574
INFO DEA/HEADQUARTERS WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 0940

DEA FOR BACHRACH; S/NM FOR FALCO; CARACAS FOR CRO MACOLINI

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, PA
SUBJ: PARAGUAY REQUESTS INFORMATION ON RICORD

SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY PARAGUAYANS IMPLICATED IN DRUG SMUGGLING WHICH MAY HAVE EMERGED FROM THE 1973 RICORD TRIAL. NOTE REPRESENTS THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER. REQUEST EARLY GUIDANCE ON HOW TO REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MY RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE LAST MONTH I CALLED ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER. FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS STROESSNER RAISED WITH ME (AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS) HIS INTEREST IN CLEARING PARAGUAY'S NAME OF CHARGES MADE FOUR YEARS AGO, BY JACK ANDERSON AND READER'S DIGEST, THAT CERTAIN MILITARY AND CIVIL OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. THESE CHARGES SPECIFICALLY LINKED INDIVIDUAL PARAGUAYANS TO THE CORSICAN HEROIN SMUGGLER AUGUSTE RICORD, WHO WAS EXTRADITED TO THE
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UNITED STATES, TRIED, AND IS SERVING TIME IN A
FEDERAL PRISON.

2. STROESSNER PARTICULARLY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IF ANY TESTIMONY RICORD MIGHT HAVE GIVEN WHICH WOULD IMPLICATE OR CLEAR INDIVIDUAL PARAGUAYAN RESIDENTS. I TOLD HIM THAT AS FAR AS I KNEW RICORD CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THE

WALL OF SILENCE WHICH HAD BEEN HIS POSTURE EVER SINCE
HIS EXTRADITION.

3. ON MARCH 7 I RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM FOREIGN
MINISTER NOGUES IN THE FORM OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE, FOR
INFORMATION ABOUT THE RICORD CASE. AN INFORMAL TRANSLA-
TION OF THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

"I HAVE THE HONOR OF ADDRESSING YOUR EXCELLENCY ABOUT
THE FOLLOWING:

"IN RESPONSE TO A PETITION SUBMITTED BY OFFICIALS OF
YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIAL
AUTHORITIES OF MY COUNTRY OVER FOUR YEARS AGO ACTED UPON
THE REQUEST FOR THE EXTRADITION OF AUGUSTE RICORD, WHO WAS
ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS AND DRUGS IN
THE BLACK MARKET OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"WHILE THE NECESSARY LEGAL REQUIREMENTS WERE UNDER
EXAMINATION, SO THAT THE REQUEST COULD BE ACTED UPON, THE
NAME OF MY COUNTRY AND OF HIGH PARAGUAYAN MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WAS DEFAMED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS
IN THE WORLD PRESS, AND MOST PARTICULARLY IN THE AMERICAN
PRESS, WITH THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF DAMAGING THE
PRESTIGE OF THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH CAME DANGER-
OUSLY CLOSE TO THE POINT OF DAMAGING THE EXCELLENT RELA-
TIONS WHICH HAPPILY UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I NOW WISH
TO INFORM YOU, MR. AMBASSADOR, THAT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED
IN KNOWING THE OUTCOME OF THE COURT TRIAL AGAINST AUGUSTE
RICORD IN YOUR COUNTRY. IN THAT REGARD I WISH TO NOTE
THAT THE LAWS WHICH GOVERN EXTRADITION ARE FOUNDED ON AN
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ELEMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE AGAINST
COMMON CRIMINALS. THIS IN TURN CREATES A SENSE OF
SOLIDARITY AMONG THOSE STATES WHICH, IN FULFILMENT OF
HIGHER ETHICAL PRINCIPLES, COME TO EACH OTHER'S AID IN
COMBATTING CRIME AND WRONGDOING. THUS IT IS THAT THE
PROCEDURAL CODES ESTABLISH STANDARDS TO ASSURE THE STATE
WHICH HANDS OVER THE CRIMINAL THAT THERE IS AN ACTUAL
REASON FOR THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, SO THAT THERE WILL BE
NO DOUBT AS TO THE LEGALITY OR THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES
FOLLOWED BY THE CLAIMANT STATE.

"THE FACT THAT AUGUSTE RICORD HAS BEEN SENTENCED BY
A UNITED STATES COURT HAS INCREASED THE LEGITIMATE INTEREST
OF MY GOVERNMENT IN LEARNING WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
PROCEEDINGS MAY HAVE BEEN, SO THAT IT MIGHT MAKE
TIMELY USE OF SUCH INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE USEFUL
TO IT.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON, MR. AMBASSADRO, THAT I
WISH TO ASK YOUR EXCELLENCY TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION
FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF YOUR COUNTRY, IN

THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOUR FAVORABLE ATTENTION WILL BE
HELPFUL ALWAYS IN GUARANTEEING THE CORDIAL RELATIONS
THAT UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

"I AM PLEASED, MR. AMBASSADOR, TO AVAIL MYSELF OF
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH
AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED ALBERTONOGUES - FOREIGN MINISTER)."

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-----082114Z 076659 /63

R 082020Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9575

INFO DEA/HEADQUARTERS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 0940

DEA FOR BACHRACH; S/NM FOR FALCO; CARACAS FOR CRO MACOLINI

4. THE NOTE IMPLIES THAT THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
WOULD BE READY TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANYONE WHOM
RICORD MIGHT HAVE IDENTIFIED AS BEING INVOLVED IN
NARCOTICS SMUGGLING HERE. IF IN FACT RICORD HAS MADE
ANY FIRM ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ANY PARAGUAYN RESIDENT,
OR IF HIS TESTIMONY IS SEEN AS CLEARING ANY OF THOSE
PREVIOUSLY ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING HERE, I BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE PASSED ON TO
STROESSNER FOR HIS ACTION/INFORMATION, AS HELPFUL TO OUR
NARCOTICS EFFORT ESPECIALLY IF HE HAS IMPLICATED ANY
PROMINENT PARAGUAYANS.

5. EVEN IF RICORD STILL HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENT
AT ALL FOR THE RECORD, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT IF WE
COULD MAKE AVAILABLE A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF RICORD'S
TRIAL TO THE GOP, THIS WOULD BE SEEN AS RESPONSIVE TO
THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN MORE PRECISE INFORMATION

THAN WE HAVE HERETOFORE PROVIDED HIM. IN THE PAST,
WE HAVE LIMITED OURSELVES TO SAYING THAT RICORD WAS
TRIED, FOUND GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN A
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FEDERAL PRISON.

6. IN HANDING ME THE NOTE, NOGUES STRESSED PRESIDENT
STROESSNER'S GREAT INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, AND
REQUESTED AN EARLY REPLY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND
TO THE NOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUGS, SMUGGLING, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ASUNCIO0940
Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARAGUAY REQUESTS INFORMATION ON RICORD SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FORMAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY PARAGUAYANS IMPLICATED IN DRUG SMUG
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, PA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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